U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are require

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 1 of

| E | ed to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Confirmation Number | 5435 | | | | | |
| | Application Number | 09/966,783 | | | | | |
| | Filing Date | 09/28/2001 | | | | | |
| | First Named Inventor | Bodnar | | | | | |
| | Group Art Unit | 1744 | | | | | |
| | Examiner Name | Chorbaji, M. | | | | | |
| | Attorney Docket Number | CRD0967 | | | | | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Cite | U.S. Patent Document | | | | | | | |
| Examiner Initials | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy | Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages o relevant figures appear | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No.1 | Foreign Office ³ | reign Patent Document fice ³ Number ⁴ KindCode ⁵ | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy | Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear | T ⁶ |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|----------------|
| | | JP | 2000 237289 | | Ethicon, Inc. | 05/09/2000 | See English Equivalent US Patent 6,440,364 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in

conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450